

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 13-15 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 14, and 15 being independent.

Claims 9 and 12 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 13 have been amended. Claims 14 and 15 are newly presented. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Figure 6 of the Drawings has been objected to as not having been designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. In response, Applicant has concurrently filed a Request for Approval to Amend the Drawings, requesting the Examiner's approval to add the text --PRIOR ART-- to Figure 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 13 have been objected to as allegedly containing informalities and/or defects. The claims have been amended, taking into consideration the remarks in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, to even more clearly recite various features of the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over JP 2000-31462 ("Iwasaki"; English translation is U.S. Patent No. 6,278,231) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,541,868 ("Prinz"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 of the present invention, as amended, recites a magnetic device having a layer containing pores and having wirings on both faces of the

layer formed on a substrate. In the device, each of a first group of pores is filled with a body formed by alternately stacked magnetic layers and nonmagnetic layers, each of a second group of pores different from the first group is filled with a conductive material and serves as a writing wire for writing into the magnetic layers in the first group, and the second group is surrounded by the first group.

Iwasaki, which relates to a nanostructure, electron emitting device, carbon nanotube device, and method of producing the same, has a description that the lamination of a magnetic layer and a nonmagnetic layer in a pore may exhibit a GMR effect. The Office Action concedes that the reference does not teach that a conductive column in a second set of pores can be used as a writing wire for writing magnetization configurations into magnetic layers in a nearby first set of pores.

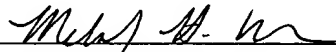
The secondary citation to Prinz relates to an annular GMR-based memory element. Prinz discloses that a conductive pillar and cylindrical magnetic layers surrounding the conductive pillar are provided, to which magnetic layers a magnetic recording is carried out. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that it is proper to combine the cited references in the manner suggested in the Office Action, Applicant submits that the proposed combination of Iwasaki and Prinz still fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of the present invention that a second group of pores (each being filled with conductive material and serving as a writing wire) is surrounded by a first group of pores (each being filled with a body formed by alternately stacked magnetic and nonmagnetic layers). It is therefore submitted that Claim 1 patentably defines the invention over the cited art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons that the base claim from which they depend is allowable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action and submits that the present application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience are earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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